

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 were previously canceled and no claims are canceled herein. Claim 9 is amended and no new claims are added. Accordingly, claims 9-16 remain under prosecution in this application.

Claims 10, 11, 12

Grammatical changes have been made to claims 10, 11 and 12 to make them more readable and to place them in conformance with customary U.S. practice.

35 USC § 103

Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Hagan in view of Faye et al and Welch et al. Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the features of “summing tire contact forces on a first side of the vehicle, and determining when said summed value falls below a threshold at a current point in time or in a time extrapolation of the determined course of signals relating to the summed forces.” None of the references of record teach or suggest the invention set forth in newly amended claim 9 and accordingly the undersigned believes that claim 9 and its dependent claims (claims 10-15) are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 16

The undersigned acknowledges the Examiner’s indication that claim 16 is in condition for allowance.

Certified Copies of Priority Documents

Submitted herewith are certified copies of two German applications (DE 102 51 343.0 filed November 5, 2002 and DE 102 56 556.2 filed December 4, 2002). The undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner enter these two certified copies of priority documents into the official record of this application.

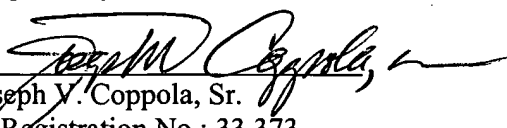
Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-3145, under Order No. AP10560 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: February 3, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By


Joseph V. Coppola, Sr.

Registration No.: 33,373

HONIGMAN MILLER SCHWARTZ AND
COHN LLP

32270 Telegraph Road

Suite 225

Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025-2457

(248)566-8500

Attorney for Applicant

Customer No.: 44200